
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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HELP COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES BIPARTISAN SPECIAL EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, today presided over the Senate HELP Committee's unanimous passage of bipartisan legislation reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The bill empowers parents and teachers to focus their time and energy on ensuring each special education student reach their full potential instead of being bogged down by paperwork and litigation. The measure, which is now ready for consideration by the entire Senate, also improves discipline by simplifying the procedures used by school districts and improves parental involvement in the education process.

Senator Gregg stated, "This reauthorization contains initiatives that are designed to ensure that children with special needs, and students who may have been misidentified in the past, obtain the same opportunity to succeed as all other students. Thanks to our bipartisan efforts and the input of those who care about educating all children, I am confident that we are meeting that goal with the bill we passed today. Its unanimous approval sends a clear signal to the rest of the Senate that improving the way special education students learn in our nation is a responsibility we must fulfill later this year

"This bill revolves around one central idea: Congress needs to help teachers and parents focus on the needs of individual students instead of spending time filling out reams of paperwork and resolving conflicts in multiple venues. It allows school districts the opportunity to meet the specific needs of individual students in their community by fostering parental involvement, providing tremendous teacher support and removing roadblocks like unnecessary forms and paperwork from the goal of teaching special education students to learn."

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